



SOUTHEAST NEWS

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UCBWM Meets in Atlanta

The 182nd Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries will be hosted by the Southeast Conference in Atlanta in November.

The first ever held in the Conference, the meeting on Nov. 8-11 will bring together the 225 corporate members of the World Board and missionaries, overseas partner church representatives, guests, national staff and members of local United Church of Christ congregations.

"The fact that the World Board chose to meet in Atlanta is a wonderful reflection of the interest of the United Church of Christ in the work of the churches of the Southeast Conference," said Roger Knight, Conference Minister. "It's an exciting and important occasion for us."

The four-day meeting at the Lanier Plaza Hotel will be highlighted by Board business, worship services, fellowship gatherings, mission forums, visits to local churches and tours of local landmarks, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site.

A three-day meeting of the 52-member Board of Directors of the World Board will follow the corporate meeting.

Churches in the Conference will be asked to send a representative to the World Board meeting to take part in the Global Festival Worship and various mission workshops.

Chairing the local arrangements committee for the Southeast Conference is the Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown of Central Congregational United Church of Christ of Atlanta.

The World Board's corporate members are elected by the General Synod of the United Church of Christ from its conferences.

Serving as corporate members from the Southeast Conference are the Rev. Carol Jean Miller of Central Congregational and the Rev. James L. Myers, pastor of First Congregational Church, UCC, of Birmingham, Ala. Rev. Myers also serves on the Board of Directors.

The World Board maintains about 190 overseas personnel who work with partner churches in Africa, Europe, East Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East, and Southern Asia.

The World Board also works with bringing partner church missionaries to the United States for exchanges and to new immigrant communities.

It provides partnerships between local UCC churches and overseas churches, and sponsors through UCC members about 1,600 overseas children and indigent older adults.

President of the World Board is Dorothy Gentry Kearney of the Central Atlantic Conference, and President of the Board of Directors is James Fletcher of the Maine Conference. Executive Vice President is Scott S. Libbey, who was keynote speaker of the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference in 1989.

260 Fete Conference Anniversary

In its largest recent Annual Meeting, the Southeast Conference celebrated 25 years as part of the United Church of Christ in Chattanooga on June 7-9.

The anniversary was marked by two addresses by the Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ, and the announcement that the Visions '91 fund-raising campaign had reached its primary goal of \$150,000.

Dr. Sherry told about 260 people that the denomination is on the path to rejuvenation. "As I have traveled through the United Church of Christ," said Dr. Sherry, who was elected to his position in 1989, "it has become apparent that the church is on the edge of renewal."

Sherry stressed the need of the church to reclaim its faith, and "to get involved if we are to get into the 21st century with grace."

Basing his two addresses on the Conference's Isaiah theme, "Roots of Heritage—Wings of Hope," Dr. Sherry listed in his second speech on Saturday morning the attributes of the church which "waits on the Lord."

Reflecting on a visit with the Syrian Orthodox patriarch before the Gulf War, the UCC President said, "The church of faith must pay close attention to the Story," as well to embrace those that hurt; to build community in an alienated world; to deal with "the weighty matters of the Law"; and to stay in "intimate, daily touch with the Christ."

During the session, the Annual Meeting:

Heard at banquet celebration that the Visions '91 had topped its primary goal of \$150,000. Later, the Annual Meeting voted to extend the campaign until December 31, 1991, in order to meet a challenge goal of \$200,000.

Heard previous Conference Ministers recap the history of the Conference. It included a telling story from Dr. Erston Butterfield of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., who told about his agonizing years as Southeast Convention Superintendent during the height of the Civil Rights struggle. Other former conference ministers present were Dr. William Andes of Elon College, N.C., and Dr. Emmett Floyd of Atlanta.

On voice votes, the Annual Meeting passed a 1992 budget of \$278,655, and elected 19 people to Conference offices and commissions. Elected as Secretary was Kim Ward of Central Congregational UCC of Atlanta, and as Treasurer was Lenda Sherrell of Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Passed three resolutions on voice votes and passed a fourth by show of hand after debate. Resolutions on non-violence, living wills and Japanese racist

statements were approved. A resolution calling for a revised national energy policy was approved after the Annual Meeting amended it by a margin of one vote.

The amendment dropped a reference that demanded the abolishment of nuclear power and substituted one that called for "the careful and responsible use of nuclear power" and for the aggressive development of alternative energy sources.

Accepted the reports of its officers, staff, the six commissions and the two standing committees.

Honored Conference clergy who had served 10 years or more in the ministry.

Held before the Meeting a commemoration at Brainerd Mission Cemetery. The cemetery is the site of a former mission to the Cherokee run by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a forerunner of the United Church Board for World Ministries. The mission and its school closed when the Cherokee were deported from the South in what became known as the Trail of Tears.

Attended worship at Pilgrim Congregational on Sunday morning, and heard a sermon by the Rev. Mitchell Johnson, Associate Conference Minister. The service included music by the bell choir of First UCC of Belvidere, Tenn., and by the all-Conference Choir.

Shared worship and communion together on Sunday morning, a service which included music by the choir of First UCC of Sweetwater, Tenn.

Events through the Annual Meeting drew a large contingent of youth, who participated in the Visions '91 celebration and heard Dr. Sherry.

About 220 people registered for the Conference, which attracted another 40 persons through the three-day meeting at the RiverCentre Hotel.

The 1992 Annual Meeting will be held in Atlanta at First Congregational Church, UCC, and the Downtown Holiday Inn on June 12-14.

The formation of the Conference was the result of the 1957 merger of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Created in 1966, the Conference united diverse churches of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the E&R Church; African-American churches of the Convention of the South of the Congregational Christian Churches; and churches of the Southeast Convention of the CC Churches.

Iowa, Southeast Seal Their Tie

A meeting of delegates to the 18th General Synod from the Southeast and Iowa conferences sealed a partnership between the two bodies approved this spring by their respective boards of directors.

"We have entered a big new venture that will help us move ahead together," said the Rev. Roger Knight, Southeast Conference Minister.

The partnership will provide for church-to-church contact, youth exchanges, meeting interchanges and Conference staff sharing. In addition, Southeast children

will be able to attend summer camp in Iowa, and Iowa adults and youth will take part in work camps in the Southeast.

The Iowa Conference has 207 churches with 47,063 members. Conference Minister is the Rev. Donald A. Gall.

CONFERENCE COMMENTS

This edition's Conference Comments is a reprint of remarks delivered at the Visions '91 celebration at the 25th Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, June 7-9.

Author James Michener tells a story in his book *The Raven and The Eagle* of when he was a country lad.

A farmer at the end of the lane had an aging apple tree which once had produced good fruit but now had lost its energy and ability to give apples.

On an early spring day the farmer found eight nails, long and rusty, which he hammered into the reluctant tree. Four were knocked in close to the ground, on four sides of the trunk, and four were banged in higher, again well dispersed about the circumference.

That autumn a miracle happened.

The tired old tree, having been goaded back to life, produced a bumper crop of red juicy apples, bigger and better than had been seen before.

When Michener asked how this happened, the farmer explained: "Hammering in the rusty nails gave it a shock to remind it that its job was to produce apples."

"Was it important the nails were rusty?" asked Michener.

"Maybe it made the mineral in the nail easier to digest," said the farmer.

"Was eight important?" asked Michener.

"If you are going to send a message, be sure it's heard," answered the farmer.

"Could you do the same next year?"

"A substantial jolt lasts about 10 years," he replied.

Michener said that when he was nearly 80 years old he had some fairly large rusty nails hammered into his trunk—quintuple bypass heart surgery, a new left hip, dental rebuilding and an attack of permanent vertigo. "Like a sensible apple tree I resolved to resume bearing fruit."

He was not so much concerned, he said, with death. But, he has all kinds of potential, unwritten books in the back recesses of his memory which needed to come to fruition.

From 1986 to 1990, he wrote 10 books, published seven of them, including two that were very long, and had the other three revised and awaiting publication.

The eight rusty nails may be an apt way for us to describe our life in the Southeast Conference as God goads us to our true calling and we commit ourselves to Visions '91 as a beginning step for our new life towards the next century.

God's blessings continue, friends.

GUEST COLUMN

In advance of the 182nd Annual Meeting of the United Church Board for World Ministries in Atlanta Nov. 8-13, Dr. Richard Sales, pastor of Pilgrim Congregational church, UCC, of Birmingham, Ala., recalls in this edition's Guest Column episodes from 30 years as a missionary in southern Africa.

By Dick Sales

While I was working in Botswana for the United Church Board for World Ministries, I traveled in a four-wheel drive truck into the desert to meet theological students. We always went into the desert in pairs. On one occasion when I thought I would have to go alone, a student, Africa Katai, turned up and said he would travel with me.

We loaded up, and started at night because the sand is damper and offers better traction. At dawn we stopped for tea and biscuits, sitting on the hood of the truck.

I looked at the scrub desert around us and noticed the remnants of a fire. Suppose we broke down here? It might be days before the next vehicle passed. The blackened sticks looked like bones to me.

I looked at Katai who was also surveying the scene.

"What do you see here, Mr. Katai?"

He smiled, "This is a good place. Do you see the little stems here and here and there? If you dig there will be gourds full of water. And the bark of that tree is wonderful for making tea. And the leaves of that thorn bush are just like spinach."

He went on describing a virtual cornucopia. And I said to myself, yes, but I would have died here in the midst of your plenty.

So much depends on what we see in a situation.

Theology by extension, my work for the World Board took me hundreds of miles from where I lived to train pastors.

One time we were talking in the village of Palapye about the prophet Elijah. I was trying to see if the adult extension students understood how important it was for Elijah to have shown the Israelites that Yahweh of the desert was also the God of harvest.

A student from a remote village said, "Oh, it must have been like in my village when I was a boy. You see, we used to worship Mwali on the mountain every Saturday. Then the Christians went to church on Sunday."

"But the fields in our village required more than five days' work, so the elders sat down and had a debate [kgotla] on whether to worship God or Mwali. It lasted a whole day."

"At the end, they said, 'Well, we have seen that Mwali may be good for crops, but the Christian God is good for crops and everything else.'"

"We stopped worshiping Mwali then. I don't think anyone went up to the mountain after that."

I asked a class of students whether they were sure that development, which the national bugled as the most important thing for the country, was an unalloyed good thing.

For a time it wasn't clear whether they could handle a critique of development. I was about to leave the subject when one student from a small desert place, said, "I think development is not always a good thing. It can make a man poor."

I asked him to explain.

He said, "My father could not be made poor. If you took everything away from him and left him without anything he could start over and make everything he needed, house, furniture, even clothes."

"I have been educated. I need other things I cannot make," he said. "I can be made poor."

Working for the World Board you encounter gems of wisdom that leave you thinking for years.

18th Synod Attracts 36 From Conference

Thirty-six delegates, visitors and officers from the Southeast Conference attended the six-day 18th General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Norfolk, Va.

Under a theme drawn from Isaiah, "Behold, I am doing a new thing," the Synod broke from business as usual and spent two days in a planning process for "Toward the 21st Century," part of a denomination-wide revisioning project.

The information gathered from the Synod process will be brought together with that of local churches and other church bodies by a coordinating committee. The committee will report to the Executive Council and the General Synod.

Before concluding its business on July 2, the Synod acted in a number of areas:

As part of a document on "Christian Faith, Personal Stewardship and Economic Giving," the Synod approved a \$30 million fund-raising campaign to support pastoral and leadership training, the starting of new churches and mission in the United States and overseas.

In addition, the document calls on churches to encourage members to give a share of their income, rather than a fixed amount, to their church programs, and to live more simply.

The Synod voted to amend a motion which would have repealed a previous recommendation to associations and conferences by the Synod that asked that sexual orientation not in itself be grounds for ordination, 2nd substituted a call for Biblical study on the issue by churches.

Unlike the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches, whose national meetings this summer rejected or postponed decisions on homosexual ordination, the authority to determine the worthiness for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ rests solely with associations (in some places, conferences).

An extensive document regarding sexual harassment and conduct among church ministry and employees and recommending measures to churches, conferences and other denominational groups was passed by the Synod.

As part of a Synod emphasis on children, delegates endorsed the Campaign to End Childhood Hunger, and heard a speech by Marian Wright Edelman, director of the Children's Defense Fund.

The Synod elected Edith Guffey as Secretary of the United Church of Christ, a full-time paid position. Ms. Guffey, a laywoman from Lawrence, Kan., is the first African-American woman to hold one of the UCC's top three positions.

Delegates who represented the Conference were Rebecca Paschal of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta; Nancy Sales of Pilgrim Congregational, UCC, of Birmingham, Ala.; Marvin Morgan of Atlanta United Church of Christ; and Harry Manon of Pleasant Hill Community Church, UCC, of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., who as an alternate substituted for Wayde Washburn.

Serving as non-voting associate delegates because of their positions were the Rev. Roger Knight, Conference Minister, and the Rev. Roy Bain, Conference Moderator.

Franklin Thomas of Central Congregational UCC of Atlanta served as Assistant Moderator of the Synod. Barbara Everett of First UCC, Belvidere, Tenn., attended as a member of UCC Executive Council.

Three outstanding women from the Conference were honored by the General Synod. They included June Bell of Central Congregational UCC, who was present; Yubenia Prigmore of First UCC, Sweetwater, Tenn., also present; and Louise Cox, of Pleasant Grove Congregational Christian, UCC, of LaFayette, Ala., not present.

Also attending as visitors and officers from the Southeast were: James Myers, Mitchell Johnson, Wanda Bain, Helen Johnson, Connie Moorner, Peg Manon, Libby Scott, Erna Bryant, Dick Sales, Frances Smith, Ginny McCamey, J. David Menchhofer, William Jackson, Mary Jackson, Joyce Myers-Brown, Ed Brown, Bob Sherard, George Thomas, Delores Thomas, Jean Thomas, Julpenia Gardener, Lori Keller, Martha Lammers, Dick Lammers, John Buck and Jeanne Buck.

OCWM Receipts to Date, June 30, 1991

Churches by Association	Second Quarter	Total to Date
Alabama-Tennessee Total	26,197.66	38,423.94
Alpine, AL, King's Chapel	0.00	138.00
Athens, AL, Trinity	0.00	0.00
Belvidere, TN, First	1,406.60	1,607.09
Birmingham, AL, First	1,800.00	1,800.00
Birmingham, AL, Pilgrim	430.00	1,600.00
Chattanooga, TN, First	0.00	0.00
Chattanooga, TN, Pilgrim	5,346.00	8,910.50

Crossville, TN, United	1,025.00	2,226.50
Cullman, AL, St. John's	2,025.00	3,375.00
Deer Lodge, TN, Deer Lodge	300.00	600.00
Fairfield Glade, TN, Community	718.75	1,437.50
Garden City, AL, Garden City	231.00	231.00
Hanceville, AL, Mountain Grove	0.00	0.00
Huntsville, AL, United	2,100.00	4,200.00
Knoxville, TN, Church of the Savior	0.00	0.00
Marion, AL, First	50.00	50.00
Montgomery, AL, First	0.00	0.00
Nashville, TN, First	1,250.01	2,083.35
Nashville, TN, Brookmeade	25.00	25.00
Nashville, TN, Howard	0.00	0.00
Pleasant Hill, TN, Community	8,750.00	8,750.00
Robbins, TN, Barton Chapel	300.00	300.00
Sunbright, TN, Glenmary	400.00	800.00
Sweetwater, TN, First	0.00	250.00
Talladega, AL, First	0.00	0.00
Tougaloo, MS, Union	0.00	0.00
Waverly, TN, United	40.00	40.00

East Alabama-West Georgia Total	2,881.00	9,023.00
Alexander City, AL, First	76.00	190.00
Columbus, GA, United	0.00	0.00
Dadeville, AL, Elder	165.00	282.00
East Tallassee, AL, East Tallassee	0.00	0.00
Eclectic, AL, Watson's Chapel	0.00	0.00
Five Points, AL, State Line	47.00	47.00
LaFayette, AL, Pleasant Grove	139.00	461.00
LaGrange, GA, Hillside	0.00	0.00
LaGrange, GA, United	511.00	1,075.00
Lanett, AL, Lanett	0.00	1,900.00
Langdale, AL, Langdale	0.00	285.00
Phenix City, AL, Russell Woods	285.00	285.00
Pine Mountain, GA, Oak Grove	475.00	475.00
Roanoke, AL, Antioch	428.00	714.00
Roanoke, AL, Bethany	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, AL, First	0.00	712.00
Roanoke, AL, Forest Home	0.00	0.00
Roanoke, AL, New Hope	0.00	570.00
Roanoke, AL, North Main	0.00	143.00
Roanoke, AL, Rock Stand	0.00	175.00
Valley, AL, Pine Forest	266.00	665.00
Valley, AL, Todd	0.00	0.00

Wadley, AL, Corinth	119.00	119.00
Wedowee, AL, Noon Day	0.00	0.00
Woodbury, GA, Jones Chapel	370.00	925.00
South Alabama-NW Florida Total	280.00	520.00
Andalusia, AL, Antioch	0.00	0.00
Andalusia, AL, first	110.00	220.00
Baker, FL, Good Hope	0.00	0.00
Baker, FL, Pyron	75.00	125.00
Bonifay, FL, New Effort	0.00	0.00
Brantley, AL, Indian Creek	0.00	0.00
Brantley, AL, Liberty	0.00	0.00
Clio, AL, New Hope	0.00	0.00
Headland, AL, Blackwood	95.00	175.00
Georgia-South Carolina Total	18,456.78	31,248.62
Atlanta, GA, Carroll Heights	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, Central	8,400.00	16,800.00
Atlanta, GA, First	5,500.00	5,500.00
Atlanta, GA, Rush	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, Southwest	0.00	0.00
Atlanta, GA, UCC	0.00	0.00
Barnesville, GA, Fredonia	0.00	0.00
Beachton, GA, Evergreen	0.00	495.00
Braselton, GA, Macedonia	0.00	0.00
Buford, GA, Duncan's Creek	0.00	0.00
Charleston, SC, Circular	999.00	1,666.69
Charleston, SC, Plymouth	1,160.00	1,160.00
Columbia, SC, Pilgrim	0.00	0.00
Demorest, GA, Federated	113.47	226.94
Dewey Rose, GA, Liberty	150.00	150.00
Jonesboro, GA, Trinity	1,000.00	3,000.00
Lilburn, GA, Button Gwinnett	0.00	0.00
Macon, GA, First	0.00	0.00
Marietta, GA, Pilgrimage	833.32	1,269.00
Midway, GA, Midway	0.00	400.00
Savannah, GA, First	300.00	300.00
Thomasville, GA, Bethany	0.00	300.00

Visions '91 Heads For Challenge Goal

The Visions '91 fund-raising campaign for the Southeast Conference has reached its basic goal of \$150,000.

As a result, the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference voted to extend the campaign until Dec. 31, 1991, to permit time to reach the challenge goal of \$200,000.

If the Conference reaches the challenge goal, the \$40,000 set aside for the Endowment Fund will be matched with a \$50,000 gift for a total endowment of \$90,000.

The campaign's initial success was celebrated at a special banquet attended by nearly 250 people on Saturday, June 8 at the Annual Meeting in Chattanooga, Tenn. "If you were there, you experienced the feeling of dedicated success—the joy of an united effort," said Dr. Erna Bryant, Chair of Visions '91. "It was a moment of high emotion!"

"We recognized the efforts of all persons who made a commitment and were spurred to new excitement to meet our challenge goal," she said.

Visions '91 is a fund-raising campaign to provide foundational support to Conference activities. Funds from the campaign will go to support new and renewed churches; leadership training; communication of identity and mission; a Conference office; and a Conference endowment fund.

If the Conference reaches the Challenge goal, \$80,000 will go to the new and renewed churches; \$40,000 to leadership training; \$16,000 to communicate identity and mission; \$24,000 to relocate and upgrade Conference facilities; and \$40,000 to an Endowment Fund.

The categories of giving are Visionary (\$10,000 and up); Pillar (\$5,000 to \$9,999); Cornerstone (\$2,500 to \$4,999); Partner (\$1,000 to \$2,499); Nurturer (\$500 to \$999); Supporter (\$100 to \$499); and Foundation (\$1 to \$99).

Gifts may be given directly or through three-year pledges. Gifts or pledges should be sent to Visions '91 Campaign, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30359.

Members of the Campaign Committee are Dr. Bryant, chair; Dr. James Mason; Ren Manning; Lala Allen; Barbara Everett; June Davis; Dick Woodward; James Myers; Rev. Floyd Carmack; Rev. Dick Sales; and Rev. Roy Bain, ex-officio.

Do You Know?

Part of the Visions '91 celebration at the 25th Annual Meeting was a list of "Do You Knows?" They are reprinted here.

1. Did you know that one of the smallest churches with a regular attendance of about 10 made a commitment of \$7,200?
2. Did you know that the Southeast Conference had the greatest percentage increase in Our Church's Wider Mission from 1989-90 in the denomination?
3. Did you know that some of our youth stood on street corners to collect coins for the Coin Connection?
4. Did you know that one church with minimal contact from the Conference during the past 17 years has over 50 percent participation?

5. Did you know that the first Visionary commitment was volunteered and not requested?

6. Did you know that the greatest number of persons participating from a single church is the church with the largest number of retired persons living on limited incomes?

7. Did you know that the *Southeast News* was one of our best communicators?

8. Did you know that the production labor for the Visions '91 video was donated?

9. Did you know that some churches made extraordinary commitments, despite their own need for a new roof, a repaired organ and other ongoing needs?

10. Did you know that the Southeast Conference leads the denomination in per capita giving to All Church offerings?

11. Did you know that we have 100 percent Board of Directors' participation and commitment to Visions '91?

12. Did you know that the Endowment Fund of the campaign was enhanced by the legacy of a deceased UCC member?

13. Did you know that the source of two Visionary commitments came from the Campaign Committee?

14. Did you know that the total commitment is \$156,000?

Income and Expenses to Date, June 30

	1991 Budget	Actual to Date
Income	278,691.00	114,616.47
Expenses	261,610.72	105,578.07
Excess/(Deficit)	17,080.28	9,038.40

CHURCHES AND PEOPLE

First Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta dedicated a facility addition in a special service on Sunday, June 23.

Herndon Tower is the first phase of a planned renovation and expansion of the 420-member church's downtown facilities, which is a National Historic Landmark.

The four-story Herndon Tower is named after Alonzo F. Herndon, who founded Atlanta Life Insurance Company of Atlanta, and Norris B. Herndon, his son.

The two received the 1991 Award of Excellence from the Atlanta Urban Design Commission.

The sermon for the service was delivered by the Rev. Andrew Young, a member of the church and former mayor of Atlanta. Participants included the Rev. George W. Hawkins, Secretary for Local Church Finance Advisory Services of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

The Rev. George W. Thomas is pastor.

The congregation of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ of Marietta, GA., has called the Rev. Timothy A. Morrison as pastor.

Dr. Morrison, who assumed the pastorship of the 252-member suburban Atlanta church in June, was previously pastor of Suffield United Church of Christ in Suffield, Ohio.

A graduate of Lehigh University, Dr. Morrison holds a Master's of Divinity from United Theological Seminary and a Doctorate of Ministry from Andover Newton Theological School. He was ordained in 1974.

A former missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries, Dr. Morrison was Principal of the Evangelical Presbyterian Seminary in Peki, Ghana from 1978 to 1981.

His wife is Marta.

The Rev. Edward H. Schneider has been called as pastor of Pleasant Hill Community Church in Pleasant Hill, Tenn. He began his ministry at the 161-member church in late July.

Rev. Schneider has previously served as pastor of the United Church of Christ Congregational in Planfield, N.J., a multicultural congregation.

He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University and Lehigh University, and received a divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1968.

His wife is Goldie.

Robert Warden has been called as pastor by the congregation of United Community Church, Waverly, Tenn. He began his lay ministry in July.

A native of Lansing, Mich., Mr. Warden spent part of his childhood in Tennessee. He is a 1965 graduate of Eastern High School in Lansing.

Until his call by the 23-member church, he was a member of St. Paul United Church of Christ of Andrews, Ind. He previously served a prison ministry in Tennessee. A Marine Corps veteran, Mr. Warden has worked 20 years as carpenter and builder in California, Tennessee, Texas, and Indiana.

His wife is Judy.

NEW: Frances Bryant, a member of First Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta, will be ordained by the Georgia-South Carolina Association on August 19. Ms. Bryant has been called to a hospital chaplaincy ... The Rev. Jerry A. Gladson, a member of Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, received standing in the UCC in June. A counselor and supply minister, he was formerly a Seventh Day Adventist pastor. A graduate of Southern University, he holds doctoral and master's degrees from Vanderbilt University.

The Rev. W. Sterling Cary, Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, spent a week in the Southeast Conference in early August. He met informally in Birmingham, Chattanooga, and Savannah with pastors and church leaders in an effort to share information on the wider church.

HOMEcomings AND REVIVALS: Langdale Congregational Christian Church, UCC, of Valley, Ala., held revival services on June 16-19, and homecoming on June 2. The Rev. Herbert Young is pastor ... King's Chapel Congregational UCC of Alpine, Ala. held homecoming July 14 and a revival July 14-20. Barbara D. Embry is pastor.

IT MUST BE SUMMER: It's summertime, and time to join the gnats at the church picnic. Pilgrim Congregational Church, UCC, of Birmingham, Ala., held its summer picnic June 23. And Circular Congregational, UCC of Charleston launched its Summer Suppers on June 19. Central Congregational Church, UCC, of Atlanta headed for Stone Mountain for an evening at the state park. At Brookmeade Congregational, UCC, of Nashville, Tenn., they opted for the Boys of Summer over gnats, and watched the Nashville Sounds take on Indy June 23.

The 95-member youth choir of St. Charles United Church of Christ of St. Charles, Mo., performed at St. John's United Church of Christ in Cullman, Ala. on June 23.

Fairfield Glade Community Church of Fairfield Glade, Tenn. is asking members to design a church logo. With standing in both the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ, the church wants to blend the two denomination's symbols into symbols of their life and spirit.

Do you have church news to share? To make the October edition of the Southeast news, please mail your news release, church bulletin or newsletter by August 30 to: Editor, Southeast News, Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ, Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.

UPCOMING

The Board of Directors will meet Friday and Saturday, Aug. 16-17, for its annual planning retreat at the SIFAT near Lineville, Ala. SIFAT, which alternately stands for "Servants in Faith and Technology" and the "Southern Institute for Applied Technology," is a church-based center that helps bring technology in Third World situations. Board meetings will be Sept. 27-28, 1991 and Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 1992.

Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church of Pine Mountain, Ga., will hold its annual Country Fair, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 17-18, at the church grounds off U.S. 27, 13 miles south of LaGrange, Ga.

The public event includes 190 artists and craftsmen, free entertainment and pit cooked barbecue. Proceeds from the fair are donated to charity.

The Clergy/Spouse Retreat will be held Sunday through Tuesday, Aug. 25-27, at Children's Harbor in Alexander City, Ala. The Rev. Cynthia Hale, pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Atlanta, will lead the retreat, whose theme is "On Being Stewards of the Faith." Contact Rev. Michael Small, First UCC, Belvidere, Tenn., at (615) 967-0180 for information.

Association meetings are scheduled for September and October. The Alabama-Tennessee Association will convene at the United Church of Huntsville, Huntsville, Ala., on Sept. 13-14. The Georgia-South Carolina Association will meet at Trinity United Church, Jonesboro, Ga., on Sept. 20-21. The date for the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association is Oct. 5. The East Alabama-West Georgia Association will meet Oct. 19 at Children's Harbor in Alexander City, Ala.

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PROJECT

